

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00282 081525Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 MCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 /046 W

-----014270 082259Z /70

R 081442Z SEP 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1768

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS BELFAST 282

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, UK, GW

SUBJECT: BREAK-IN AGAINST HONORARY GERMAN CONSUL

1. THE GERMAN HONORARY CONSUL IN NORTHERN IRELAND SEPTEMBER 7
CONFRONTED AN ARMED INTRUDER, WHO FIRED A SHOT.

ALTHOUGH DEFINITIVE INFORMATION IS LACKING, IT APPEARS
THE BREAK-IN OF THE HOUSE WAS FOR BURGLARY RATHER THAN
POLITICALLY INSPIRED.

2. ABOUT 10 O'CLOCK YESTERDAY EVENING, A MASKED GUNMAN
BROKE INTO THE BACK OF THE HOME OF GERMAN HONORARY CONSUL
JURGEN GRADEL, MANAGER OF GERMAN-CONTROLLED ELASTIC KNITTING
CO. THE HOME IS IN BALLYMENA, A SMALL TOWN ABOUT 30 MILES
NORTHWEST OF BELFAST. THE INTRUDER ENCOUNTERED GRADEL AND ORDERED
HIM FACE DOWN ON THE FLOOR. WHEN MRS. GRADEL APPEARED, THE
INTRUDER FIRED A SHOT INTO THE CEILING, TORE OUT THE TELEPHONE
WIRE, AND FLED.

3. COMMENT: GRADEL HAS BEEN HONORARY CONSUL ABOUT A YEAR
AND HAS LIVED QUIETLY IN NORTHERN IRELAND THE PAST TWO-THREE
YEARS. THE QUESTION IS INEVITABLY RAISED WHETHER
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THE INCIDENT INVOLVING HIM WAS A POLITICALLY
MOTIVATED ATTEMPT AT TERRORISM BY THE PROVISIONAL
IRA. THE PREVIOUS GERMAN HONORARY CONSUL THOMAS
NIEDERMEYER, WAS KIDNAPPED FOUR YEARS AGO AND NEVER
HEARD OF AGAIN, AND THE CANADIAN CONSUL (CAREER) WAS
THREATENED RECENTLY.

4. IT IS OUR AND THE POLICE'S INITIAL JUDGMENT THAT THE INTRUDER WAS NOT TERRORIST: WE SEE NO MOTIVE FOR A POLITICAL ATTACK, IF THE INTRUDER HAD INTENDED MURDER OR KIDNAP, HE COULD HAVE CARRIED IT OUT, AND FINALLY, HIS METHOD OF OPERATION DID NOT FOLLOW THE PIRA PATTERN. FROM THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE SO FAR, THE INTRUDER NEVERTHELESS SEEMED INEPT AS A BURGLAR, SO A QUESTION REMAINS.

STOUT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CRIMES, HONORARY CONSULAR OFFICERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELFAS00282
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770326-0121
Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770988/aaaacwac.tel
Line Count: 72
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c7daa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: PINS, UK, GE
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